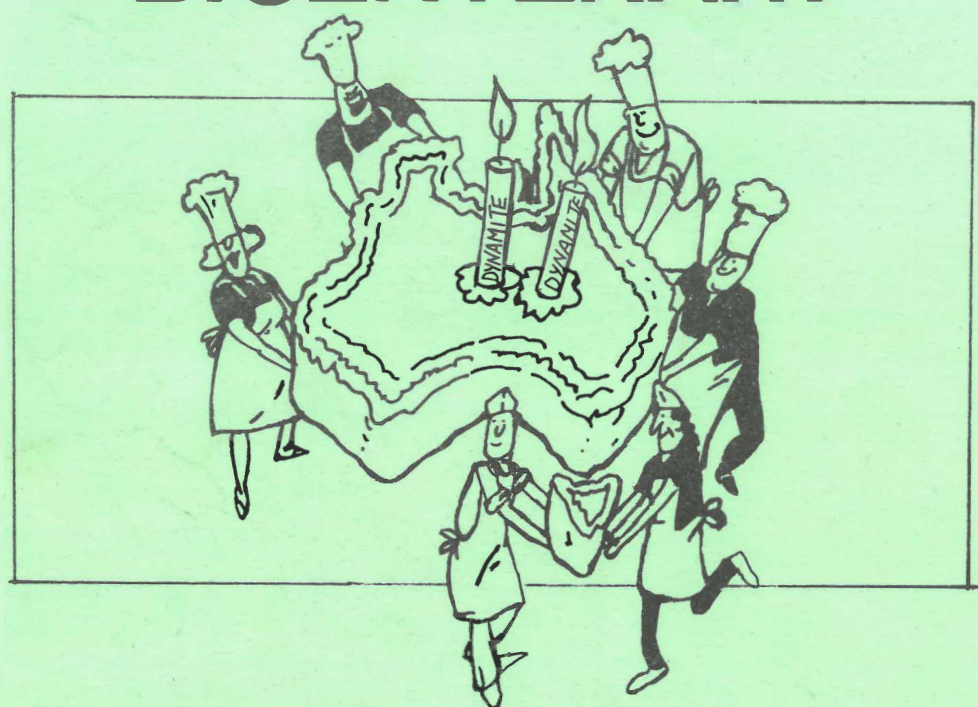




Australia
1788-1988

HOW TO MAKE IT YOUR BICENTENARY



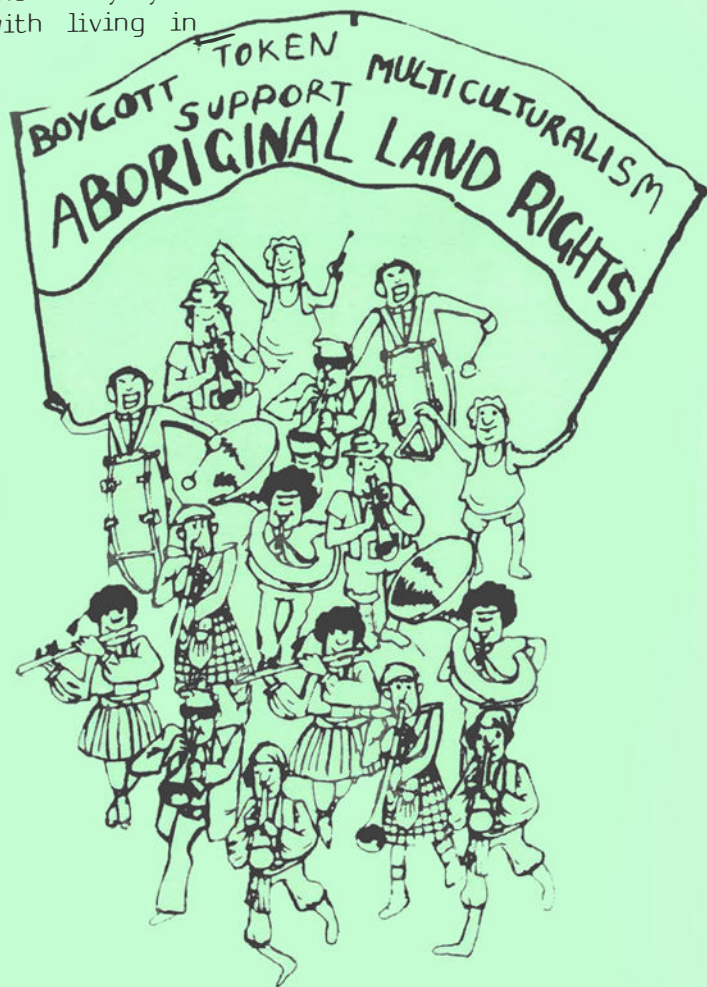
WHY CELEBRATE IN 1988?

Australia's Bicentenary provides a rare opportunity for all Australians to look critically at this country, its history and to ask themselves is there really anything much to celebrate in 1988?

Every Australian will be touched by the Bicentenary. Major events will create lots of opportunities to show why you are pissed off with living in

this society. How the philosophy and interests of the bosses and politicians are not the same as ours- no matter how much they keep telling us they are.

1988 will be the first time in many years Australians can unite in a nationwide condemnation of the two hundred years of genocide of the Aboriginal people.



Australians have really been 'Living Together' for many years- with the bosses and bureaucrats living on our backs. In 1988 we can really show we want to live together in the future without them.

What is the philosophy of the Bicentenary?

The philosophy for 1988 is expressed in the Bicentennial slogan 'Living Together'. It reminds us that Australia is a unique blend of apparent social egalitarianism and personal freedoms which cover up deep class divisions, racism, exploitation of women and migrants, and a creeping state control for big corporate interests.

The organisers of the Bicentenary have, therefore, developed a set of planning objectives that attempt to cover-up these

* To encourage all Australians to understand and preserve the heritage of ruling class ideas, to acknowledge the multicultural nature of modern Australia in the most tokenistic way, and to look to the future with a false sense of confidence.

* To ensure that all Australians feel that they can be spectators in, or have access to the spectacles of 1988, even when they are excluded from any real participation in this society because of their race, gender, ethnicity, education, class, disability, etc., so that the Bicentenary will be a truly nationalist program in its character of creating a false sense of participation and unity.

* To develop projects and a program that will provide significant increases in profits for present day capitalist and future generations of exploiters.

* To protect Australia from world scrutiny and invite other nation states to participate with the aim of strengthening nationalism everywhere.

How can I be part of 1988?

Well, if you were born an Aborigine then your chances are pretty slim- despite being one of the original inhabitants of this continent. After all, most of your people were slaughtered before 1888, and even now have some of the highest infant mortality rates and rates of preventable diseases (like T.B., Trachoma and Leprosy) in the world. Why would you want to celebrate?

However, there will be a Bicentenary Committee in your local government area- so find out where they meet so you can picket and leaflet their meetings.

There are even Anti-Bicentenary and Aboriginal Solidarity Groups in London and other cities in the world. If you are not here then why not cause some trouble for the Australian Embassy, Consulate or businesses where you are?

And if you don't like being organised by others (and we ask who does? -lets face it, it's one of the most oppressive things about all this nationalist jollity!) why not devise your own Anti-Bicentennial program and get your friends, family and neighbors to join in.

SOME FUN IDEAS



The Environment

Steal, or grow your own, shrubs and trees and plant them to replace unsightly areas; eg. car-parks, wire fences, supermarkets, police-stations, prisons, poisonous factories, etc. using old carpets and cardboard as mulch.

Create a park, plaza, mall or amphitheatre for an outdoor meeting place where people can air their grievances and plan actions to really improve their lives.

Decorate mainstreets and plazas on a local theme - like opposition to a transmission line, freeway, dirty industry, ugly commercial development, etc., using banners, flags and symbols.

Plant the Australian flag in your local park using coloured flowers, then defoliate it with 'Agent Orange' (a recent Australian tradition imported from South-East Asia, 1966-1972).



Make community litter bags. Hold community clean-up projects. Take the litter to the manufacturers and dump it on their doorstep demanding they recycle or get out.

Develop a plan for beautifying and using a piece of public or private land, squat it and grow vegies, create a people's park, etc. Or squat a building and create housing for the homeless or a community centre and cafe, etc. Squatting is old Australian tradition dating back to 1988. One former Australian Prime Minister comes from an old squatting family.

Local History

Trace family members of early white residents to the area. Many sites, streets, parks, etc. are named after early settlers - This should help you track them down. Many old settlers families are current or former ment Ministers, MP's, judges, prominent businessmen, etc. Harass them about the origins of their family fortunes.

Identify and record aspects of Aboriginal history in your area. Re-enact an episode from your district's past. This might be a massacre or the introduction of a disease. (Many communities have recently been re-enacting attacks on Aborigines and black deaths in custody, etc.).

Erect plaques, signs, banners or billboards noting the location of massacres and similar events to remind people of their significance. Alternatively, plant trees at a massacre site - one for each victim. This is a new tradition in Melbourne - but is being exported overseas to other places where massacres have occurred recently.

Make a census of the headstones if your district has an old cemetery. If you find any old Chinese graves you are lucky - many were destroyed pursuing another old Australian tradition dating back to the 1850's.

Recreation

On Australia Day, or any other day, hold an Anti-Bicentenary ball, dance, picnic, or BBQ and use the money raised toward legal costs of people arrested in Anti-Bicentenary events, or to produce more Anti-Bicentenary stickers, leaflets, etc.

Hold a kite flying day. The kites could be decorated with Land Rights flags, Anti-Bicentenary slogans, etc. Fly the kites over a local Bicentenary event.



Produce some street-theatre on a Bicentenary theme (genocide, rape, prisons, exploitation, racism, etc.).

Invite friends from different cultures around and find out for yourself how oppression and exploitation works in their countries of origin. Is there any real international solidarity you can offer? Eat whatever you like - don't be sucked in by "pizza - souvlakia - chow-mein" multiculturalism!

Community Feeling

Hold an ecumenical church service and while you have them alltogether question them about how their church broke up Aboriginal families, refused to let Aborigines speak their own language, teach their culture to their children, or practice their own spirituality. And while you are at it, hassle the Anglicans about Arch-Bishop of Canterbury Runcie's Bicentennial visit to Australia.

Provide wheelchair access to a public building. You might as well do it in the Bicentenary year because the disabled got bugger-all out of the International Year of the Disabled Person.



Smash all of the Church, school and factory bells and all the Town Hall clocks so that we make our own time (this is an old French tradition from the Paris Commune of 1871. Real bit of multiculturalism there).

Seal off the main street and hold the block as long as you can. Make it a non-political party - revolution is the festival of the oppressed. 'Twin' your community with other

communities of the same name here and overseas. Encourage them to occupy their main streets too.



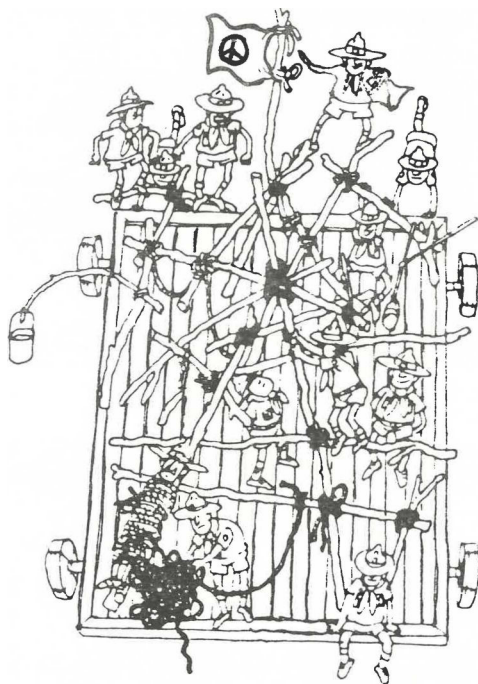
Develop a community charter suggesting ways in which the community's future might develop to the benefit of all the residents. Chartism is an old British tradition from the 1850's and 60's. Implement your charter using direct action where you live and where you work.

Adopt a grandparent - many are thrown onto society's scrap heap in these days of yuppiedom and consumerism. Find out what they know about workers' and community struggles from the past. There is a lot to learn.

Youth Activities

Young people could form a youth council that makes real demands and shows up the hypocrisy of their elders (another multi-cultural tradition, this time from Paris and Prague, 1968)

Boy Scouts could tie up their Scout Masters, take off those silly pseudo-military uniforms and demand a peaceful future for young people.



Festivals/Celebrations

Paint a "Living Together" sign, get some friends, go to the DSS and demand the right of women to an independent income no matter who they are living with!

Draw up a list of potential speakers on Bicentennial topics, set up facilities for community groups to book the speakers for meetings in 1988. All the speakers should be against the Bicentennial of course - but don't make this clear till they start speaking.



Release 200 black balloons on Australia Day, with messages attached, saying you are mourning 200 years of genocide.

Bicentennial Publications

Print an Anti-Bicentennial local newspaper with features on local identities - how they came by their wealth (see local history), how they exploit workers, use their positions on the local council to make money on real estate, etc.

Publish a cook-book of favorite recipes from the 1930's (like bread and dripping, weevil-flour damper, rabbit stew, etc.). Launch it with a tasting to remember old traditions from Australian capitalism from the 1890's, 1930's, 1970's, etc.

Compile a Who's-Who of the District so you know who to harass when you get screwed around.

Write or graphically illustrate a local history of black, women's, migrant and workers struggles.

Write a history of a local organisation nobody talks about, eg: a militant union, a women's group, an anarchist club, etc.



Tourism

Create an Anti-Bicentenary exhibition that will be educational about how this country was really settled, the destruction of the natural environment, etc.

Re-do some historic graffiti, eg:
 Free the IWW Twelve (1916)
 Vote No To Conscription
 (1915-1916)
 Sack Pig-Iron Bob (1938)
 Equal Pay for Equal Work
 (1960- ?)
 Australian Troops Out
 (1966-1972)
 You Already Have an Identity,
 You Don't Need a Card (1987)

Publish a guide book to all the institutions and groups that are participating in the Bicentenary so overseas visitors with a conscience can boycott them.

Arrange a bus tour for your community to travel to a neighbouring community to protest against their Bicentenary events. Reciprocate.

The Arts

Develop a list of people involved in the arts in your area that participated in the Bicentenary and boycott them. Send them a friendly letter explaining why.

Conduct a mural competition for the best re-spraying job of a 'Celebration Of A Nation' billboard. Design an anti-Bicentenary postcard and poster, print them and letter-box and paste up your neighbourhood.



The Future

Organise a community forum and discuss what you would like for your community in the future. Work out ways you can do this

without the bosses, bureaucrats and politicians. See if you can achieve these in 50 years time - or preferably sooner.

Plant a symbolic tree in 1988 - you might need it to breathe in the future.



Apply for Endorsement

No way, if the Anti-Bicentenary is going to be successful it needs real involvement at the grassroots level - don't ask anyone permission to do anything. But be sensitive to the experience, ideas, feelings and needs of local Aboriginal groups. Check with them if you are planning activities that might affect them. Don't do anything you think would harm their cause. Ask if they want you to support them in their actions or not.

Beware of police bombs and other provocations. Federal Police explosives have disappeared from Canberra - which is a bit similar to the Army land-mine going missing in Adelaide and blowing up outside the Hilton Hotel in Sydney a little while later! It's only the police and security forces that benefit from terrorism - and the fear of it. We all know that you can't blow up history, racism or exploitative relationships.

Just call your local Australian Bicentennial Authority office and harass them, tie up their phones, make them try and justify their actions, get information on coming events that you can boycott, picket, leaflet, etc.

State or Territory Directors of Authority can be harassed at GPO Box AUS1988 in your capitalist city.

Phone:

Sydney (02) 2211988
Melbourne (03) 6631988
Brisbane (07) 2291988
Perth (09) 3221988
Adelaide (08) 2121988
Hobart (002) 231988
Darwin (089) 811988
Canberra (062) 491988

National Office

88 George Street Sydney NSW
GPO Box AUS1988 Sydney 2001
Phone (02) 2361988 Telex
AA121988



For information on Anti-Bicentenary activities contact:

Aboriginal Rights Solidarity Group, C/- Koorie Information Centre, 120 Gertrude Street, Fitzroy, 3065, Australia.

Bicentenary Protest Group, P.O. Box 174, St Peters, 2044, Australia.

Or the Aboriginal community group in your area.

In Europe contact:
Survival International, 310 Edgware Road, London, W2 1DY, England.

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